As you begin to research your topic, you may find that you need to narrow or broaden your topic in order to find relevant sources. Below is an example of how you might do this; use the examples to do your own brainstorming about narrowing/broadening your focus.

Narrowing: Broadening:

What were the common characteristics of a typical family in the 1950s? Why did she choose to do this in her shows?

How was she a role model for other women of the time? How did she deviate from many social norms for women of the 1900s?

Acting roles depicted an average 1950s family’s way of life

Life of the 1950s (when *I Love Lucy* took place)

What is it like living in Hollywood? Do stars have less privacy there, rather than living somewhere else?

Other categories (e.g., issues)

Other categories (e.g., roles)

What is needed to be a successful comedy? Was it more popular then, then it is now?

Questions about those other categories of your topic

How was the quality of life in the 1950s? Economic status? Family structure? Social changes?

Hollywood

Comedy as entertainment

Topic:

Lucille Ball

Influential for women

Star of *I Love Lucy*

Topic:

Lucille Ball

Questions about those other categories of your topic

What was it about her personality that the audience adored? What makes an actor/actress the star of a show?